THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

April, 2022 Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - SPRING 2022

Spring is just around the corner, and our Neotropical migrants will soon return to Tennessee. In addition to migratory birds, **in-person TOS meetings are also returning! I am happy that my local Memphis chapter will host the Spring Meeting April 22nd – 24th**. The Memphis chapter has an exciting weekend planned with several bird trips to the best areas, including The Pits, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, Shelby Farms, and Hatchie NWR. I hope that both long-time and new members will make the trip to west Tennessee to participate in a weekend of fun and birding with friends. Please make your reservations early! **Birding Kingsport will host the Fall Meeting with tentative dates September 30th –October 2nd.**

During the pandemic, TOS has maintained its strong financial position, and membership has increased. Welcome, new members! This issue will be the last mailed issue of *The Tennessee Warbler*. Beginning with the August issue, *The Tennessee Warbler* will be moved to digital only and will be emailed to members. *The Tennessee Warbler* is also available at TOS website. Moving *The Tennessee Warbler* to digital only will save printing and mailing costs, freeing funds focus on our mission to promote the study and conservation of Tennessee's birds. TOS will continue to print and mail issues of *The Migrant*.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Spring, and I hope to see many of you in April.

Warmly,
Michael Collins
President, TOS

2022 TOS SPRING STATE MEETING MEMPHIS, TENNEESSEE, APRIL 22 – 24, 2022

The Memphis chapter invites all TOS members to the Spring Meeting, to be held April 22 – 24, 2022. Friday night registration, the Board of Director's meeting on Saturday, and Saturday dinner and program will all be held in the conference room immediately adjacent to the hotel.

The meeting hotel is the Plantation Oaks Suites and Inn, 6656 Hwy 51N. From I-40, take exit 24B. Go 16 miles to Hwy 51. Go left on Hwy 51 for 2.2 miles. The hotel will be on the left. A block of rooms is being held for us at a rate of $74.95 per night, king or double beds. A light breakfast is available beginning at 6 AM. Reservations: 901-872-8000, 901-872-8802 or 888-422-1459. Email: jaime.plantationoaks@gmail.com or plantationoaksmillington@gmail.com. Fax: 901-872-1000.

All field trips will depart from the hotel. Saturday destinations will include: Shelby Forest, Shelby Farms (and the Mid-South Raptor Center) and Ensley Bottoms, aka "the pits." Sunday will feature a trip to Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is just three miles from exit 56 off I-40, making it most convenient for those heading back east.

Our speaker Saturday night will be Dawn Hewitt, editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Please send your registration to MTOS by April 1st. Registration is $10 and Saturday dinner (buffet) and speaker is $22. For additional information, contact Clifford VanNostrand (birdinginthe901@gmail.com) or Dick Preston (dickpreston48@gmail.com).

TOS SPRING MEETING 2022 REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address_____

TOS Chapter_____

$ _____for _____ Registration(s) @ $10 each

$ _____for _____ Dinner Reservation(s) @ $25 each

$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed. Please make check payable to MTOS.

Mail registration form and check to MTOS Treasurer:

Barbara Pyles
8488 E Askersund Cv
Cordova, TN 38018-6836

If you mail form after 4/01/22, email brbpyles@gmail.com with your names so that we order enough dinners.

See you there!

Clifford VanNostrand
MTOS President

THE END OF THE PAPER ERA

Pam Lasley, TOS Treasurer

At the Spring 2021 meeting the TOS Board of Directors voted to move *The Tennessee Warbler* to **digital only** after June 1, 2022. That means this will be the last hard copy issue that you will receive via US Mail. For some time now, the most current three issues of *The Tennessee Warbler* have been available on our website at https://tnbirds.org/the-tennessee-warbler/ . This change will save approximately $3500 a year in printing and mailing costs plus will reduce our overall paper consumption.

When the August 2022 edition of *The Tennessee Warbler* is available, you will receive an e-mail preview notice with a link to view it on the TOS website. It is important that your chapter treasurer has your current e-mail address to receive this notification, however you will always be able to view *The Tennessee Warbler* on the website even if you do not have an active account.

Although some of us may be nostalgic for the "old" way of doing things, please be heartened by our conservation of not only the paper on which it was printed and the dollar cost, but also the energy and resources used to print and mail the newsletter to 600+ households. It's the right thing to do.

DONATIONS, MEMORIAL, AND HONORARIA

Pam Lasley, TOS Treasurer

TOS has received the following donations, memorial, and honoraria in the past year:

In memory of Jan Alexander
- Heather Lefkowitz
- Lewis and Judith Lefkowitz

In memory of Martha Cooper
- Tom and Sally Kanaday
- Query Club

In memory of Ruth Luckado
- Lisa Ehrhard
- Deborah Hill
- Tammy Hatfield
- Judith Ochoa

In honor of Dennis McMahan
- Angela Mitlehner

In honor of David Sherer
- Katelyn Fryar

General Donations
- Alisa Firehock
- Kerri Dikun
- Jay and Jennifer Mills Fund
- Caleb Vickers

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

TOS College Memberships

Increasing membership and attracting a broader, younger demographic is an important step for the long-term health of TOS. To attract younger bird enthusiasts, we propose amending the TOS constitution to add a College membership to TOS:

1) College membership. Available to all full-time students enrolled in any post-secondary educational institution. Post-secondary institutions include colleges and universities, including graduate programs, community colleges, and technical and trade schools. College memberships shall be entirely digital and will receive information via email or the TOS website to eliminate or reduce any costs to TOS associated with their membership (e.g., printing and mailing). Cost $10/year.

Justification

Why should we have a different membership for college students versus non-college students?

Full-time students often do not have much disposable income and that might hinder their ability to pay dues and become members of TOS. However, a young adult who is not a full-time student would be able to work a full-time job, which would make dues less of a financial burden. We recommend that Student memberships be limited to full-time students.

TOS should not lose money on these memberships, but we do not need to make money either. These students could help TOS grow our membership and help us draw a younger demographic, to fill volunteer positions, and to continue our mission into the next generation. We consider $10/year for College memberships to be a reasonable price. Any additional dues for local chapters shall be waived for all College memberships.

Why are student memberships not restricted to young people, say, under 25?

All full-time students regardless of age are eligible for a Student membership. If a 40-year-old goes back to school and is a full-time student, that person has the same lack of disposable income (or probably even less disposable income) than an 18-year-old student. So, the same concern about finances would apply to any full-time college student, regardless of age. In addition, graduate students are full-time students and earn little (< $20k/year) or no income, so we do not favor imposing a limit on the number of years a person is eligible for the Student membership. A substantial number of graduate students who are interested in joining TOS might be in grad school in ecology, ornithology, and wildlife. These students would give TOS more exposure (especially via social media), provide chapters and state meetings with more people willing to volunteer or to give talks, and increase the number of people seeking funding for conservation and research grants from TOS. Student memberships should not have an age restriction, and all full-time students should be eligible.

College Sub-chapters/Affiliated Chapters

TOS does not have sub-chapters or affiliated chapters. College members would be full members of the local chapter or At-large members if there is no local chapter.. Tying College memberships to a local chapter will help to foster a diverse, inclusive community that shares its knowledge of and interest in birds and conservation. College students would both learn from and contribute to their local chapters and should be encouraged to participate in meetings and birding events hosted by the local chapter. Eliminating all additional chapter dues will encourage student organizations to join their local chapter. If a college is too far from existing chapters for students to become involved with the local chapter, students can operate as a student organization or as a new chapter according Article VIII, Sec. 1, which requires sufficient interest, proper leadership, and a membership of ten or more in good standing in the Society. Some colleges and universities might choose to form a student organization or club to gain access to funding opportunities available through student government, and that club may have meetings at their discretion. These student organizations are independent of TOS.

Here is a link to the TOS constitution: https://tnbirds.org/tos-constitution/

TOS Amendment Notification

The TOS Constitution currently specifies that proposed amendments and *The Tennessee Warbler* must be mailed. *The Tennessee Warbler* is moving to electronic delivery only, and our language should reflect this change. I propose the following language changes to align our language with future practices.

1) Amendments

    a. Current: Any Voting member may propose an amendment to the Constitution by notifying all officers, Directors, local chapter presidents and secretaries of the proposed changes in writing by first class mail, thirty days before a meeting of the Board of Directors or by publication in the Society's newsletter thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting.

    b. Proposed: Any Voting member may propose an amendment to the Constitution by notifying all officers, Directors, local chapter presidents and secretaries of the proposed changes in writing by ~~first class mail~~ email, thirty days before a meeting of the Board of Directors ~~or~~ and by publication in the Society's newsletter thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting.

2) *The Tennessee Warbler*

    a. Current: An issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* shall be mailed at least thirty days before the Annual Meeting and shall contain a schedule of events, a proposed agenda for the meetings and proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws."

    b. Proposed: An issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* shall be ~~mailed~~ sent and posted on the TOS website at least thirty days before the Annual Meeting and shall contain a schedule of events, a proposed agenda for the meetings and proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

CHRISTMAS COUNT DATA DUE

Christmas bird count data are due as soon as possible to allow me to get my report in to the editor of *The Migrant* in a timely fashion. Besides the actual count data, please be sure to include the following effort data:

1 - Hours and miles by car, foot, and any night-birding

2 - Number of observers and parties

3 - Any feeder watching hours & names

4 - Start and end times for the count

5 - Weather data for the count

6 - Names of all the participants

If you do not have a local compiler, you can send the data directly to me at the address/email below.

TOS appreciates your efforts to record and track our bird populations and abundance. Thanks for helping us to archive this data for future generations and researchers.

Ron Hoff • TOS State Count Compiler • Tennessee Ornithological Society
166 Chahyga Way • Loudon, TN 37774 • 865-567-9679
webe2brdrs@gmail.com

TWRA Colonial Waterbird Survey in 2023

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will conduct a statewide colonial waterbird survey (i.e., herons, egrets, and cormorants) in 2023. We are working to compile the locations of these rookeries throughout the state. We are especially interested in the locations of any Great Blue Heron and Double-crested Cormorant rookeries. If you are aware of any rookeries in the state of TN, please send geographic coordinates of the location with a description to David.Hanni@TN.gov. The information will then be compiled into a database and then surveyed during the breeding season next year in 2023.

I greatly appreciate any information that you all may have and contribute to make this survey as comprehensive as possible. THANK YOU!

David Hanni, Bird Conservation Coordinator
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Office: 615-781-6653
David.Hanni@TN.gov

READY, SET, GO…GLOBAL BIG DAY 2022

Saturday, May 14th is the date for the 2022 Global Big Day. This is an annual event for bird watchers around the globe to report the birds they see and hear during a single 24 hour period. The data collected is entered through eBird, and is an important source for scientists studying bird population trends.

Last year 51,800 observers in 192 countries submitted 133,887 checklists, reporting 7,234 species. The checklists also contained 69,311 photos and 2,391 sound recordings. The number of observers, countries, checklists and species set new single day world records.

There is no minimum observation time required in order to submit your observations. Whether a checklist covers five or ten minutes, or several hours, all the data is valuable. Observers are encouraged to enter multiple checklists during the day.

Don't have an eBird account? It is easy to set up and easy to use. Get started at: www.ebird.org.

Additional information is available at: www.ebird.org/globalbigday

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 2022

The 25th Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was conducted February 18th through February 21st. What started as a true backyard count has evolved into a global effort to add to our knowledge of bird populations and their distribution.

This year, 301,900 checklists containing 7,099 species from 189 countries were submitted through eBird. Observers in the United States submitted 196,088 checklists reporting 689 species, which again ranked 8th among nations. Columbia topped the list, reporting 1,240 species, followed by Ecuador (1,039), India (1,022), Brazil (968), Peru (819), Mexico (771), and Costa Rica (702). The United States submitted the most checklists, 196,088, followed by India (39,252) Tennessee bird watchers submitted 3,462 checklists, containing 150 species. At least one checklist was submitted from 90 of our 95 counties. Hamilton County led the way, reporting 105 species, just beating Blount (102) and Knox (102), followed by Shelby (97) and Davidson (95).

Among individuals, Roi and Debbie Shannon submitted 45 checklists, followed by Janie Finch (39), Dick Preston (32) and Evan Kidd (29). Dick Preston reported the most species with 110, followed by Roi and Debbie Shannon (97), Allan Trentley (84), Janie Finch (82) and Evan Kidd (80).

Some of the more unusual finds in Tennessee: Long-tailed Duck, Red-throated Loon, Virginia Rail, Golden Eagle, Tree Swallow, Black and White Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Baltimore Oriole, Summer Tanager and Painted Bunting.

The 26th GBBC will be held February 18 through February 21st, 2023.

More information may be found at: www.birdcount.org

Editor's note: Totals are as of press time. Minor changes can be expected.

Winter Hummingbird Wrap-Up 2021-2022

By Cyndi Routledge, Southeastern Avian Research

Winter hummingbird season 2021-2022 started off a bit earlier than usual with the return of an Allen's Hummingbird to the host home of Mary Goodenough, in Fayetteville, TN, on August 15, 2021. Banded as a hatch-year bird on 8 December 2020 this beautiful hummingbird has given us a small glimpse into his migratory behavior. His tale will soon be published, so stay tuned for news on that front.

Our next winter hummingbird showed up in Paris, Tennessee in September during the height of Ruby-throat migration, at the home of Mary Lodge. We caught and banded 33 Ruby-throats before this adult Rufous Hummingbird would venture into our trap. But in he went and what a beauty he was!

Next up was another returnee who showed up with the trick-or-treaters at the home of Bill Taylor of Nashville, TN. This now adult female Rufous, originally banded in November of 2020 as a hatch-year bird, spent the entire winter under Bill's watchful eye and, to his delight and ours, was back some 7 months later and remains there at this writing.

A juvenile male Rufous Hummingbird, more interested in the late blooming cardinal vine and pineapple sage, evaded capture on our first attempt at the home of James Wood in Murfreesboro, TN. We returned a few weeks later on a frosty November morning with the local NTP show, TN WildSide, in tow and got him banded for the cameras. (Check out www.wildsidetv.com for that 'Winter Hummingbird' episode.)

November continued on, and we banded an adult female Rufous Hummingbird in Sewanee, TN at the home of host April Sells. We had gotten two reports from Sewanee that week and, as it turned out, once we banded April's hummingbird we verified the two hummingbirds were one in the same! Our banded Rufous was cleverly taking advantage of feeders up and down Bob Stewman Road!

Thanksgiving weekend found us back in Murfreesboro at the home of Kendra Cooper where we banded an adult, female Black-chinned Hummingbird she had spotted the previous day on her hummingbird camera. As luck would have it, while packing up our equipment to head home, we received a Facebook post from a potential host in Woodbury, TN. An hour and 33 miles later we had their adult female Rufous Hummingbird captured and banded, much to the delight of new hosts and long-time hummingbird lovers, Penny and David Malone.

December 12th was another rare two-day, winter hummingbird banding day. We began this frosty morning at the home of Gene Hammer in Vonore where we banded our second-of-the-season, adult female Black-chinned Hummingbird. Steve and I were thrilled to meet Gene, a life-long birder who told us the tale of his grandma giving him his first pair of binoculars when he was only 8 years old! We bid Gene a Merry Christmas and traveled nine miles to the southwest where we banded an adult female Rufous Hummingbird at the home of Terry Gill in Madisonville, TN. Transplants from Chicago, they didn't realize just how special and rare their hummingbird truly was, assuming that it was commonplace.

The next two bandings took place in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Having recently received my Kentucky permits these were our first adventures into the Bluegrass State to band winter hummingbirds. As it turns out it's a good fit for SEAR as our first adult female Rufous was at the home of personal friends and SEAR supporters, Dave and Joanie Roemer. The second Rufous in KY arrived a couple weeks after the December tornados that had devastated the area and Dave Roemer joined us at that host home as we banded their male juvenile Rufous, lending his time and talents to our banding efforts and catching up with host and friend Terry Clayton.

We received one email from Memphis about a winter hummingbird that would appear and then disappear, going days between visits to this host's feeder. Watching and waiting for this hummingbird to settle in was our best option and finally this *Selasphorus* species seemed to do just that. So, we made plans to travel to Memphis on December 29th to try and get it banded. However, the day before our scheduled trip the host called to say she hadn't seen the bird for 2 days! But once again luck was on our side, and on the very day I was supposed to be in Memphis, Shelby Bottom's Nature Center manager, John Michael Cassidy, texted to report a winter hummingbird being seen at their front porch feeder there at the park. Two hours later I had that juvenile Rufous Hummingbird in-hand, banding him and enabling him to be counted for NTOS lake Christmas Bird Count.

Once again, the Memphis *Selasphorus* hummingbird reappeared at the Overton Park area feeders and this time began showing at specific times each day. Plans were made, and we ventured there on an icy morning in mid-January. Frozen toes & fingers and 3 hours later we declared the bird a no-show and packed up. Melissa Bridgman, the host, called later that day to say, "It's back", and sent a picture to confirm the sighting. This hummingbird clearly is feeder-hopping with other food sources nearby. Together we're still monitoring his comings and goings and may try again before he departs for his breeding grounds this spring.

Friend and fellow Tennessee Master Hummingbird Bander Mark Armstrong reported 6 bandings or sightings in East TN this season, including an adult male Rufous back for his 5th winter! By my count that makes 19 known western winter hummingbirds for the 2021-2022 winter season combined. This number is pretty consistent with last year's totals for us, but I still feel there are winter hummingbirds out there we're not hearing about in spite of all our efforts.

In consulting with other regional hummingbird banders, they report their numbers down this season even along the coast, where it's not unusual for banders to have wintering hummingbird numbers in the 100's. As a side note, SEAR did not receive a single call from Mississippi this season. Could this be attributed to our absence in the state since the Strawberry Plains Hummingbird Festival has been cancelled the last two years due to COVID? Solidifying the old adage 'out of sight, out of mind' or were there really none?

In general, it's much too soon to know if the regional numbers are an overall natural ebb and flow of nature or if the severe drought, wildfires and general climate changes are taking an undue toll on these western hummingbird species. The overall general consensus among hummingbird banders is it is a bit of both; however, a recently published paper out of the University of British Columbia (*Front. Ecol. Evol. 10:825026. Dol: 10.3389/fevo2022.825026*) suggests that this decline is more of an 'accelerating trend' that began in the mid-2000s and continues today. It's indeed a troubling trend not just for hummingbirds but birds in general. This makes the work Southeastern Avian Research does each winter even more timely and important.

Finally, many thanks to everyone who maintained hummingbird feeders all winter, who refer hummingbird hosts to SEAR, who continue to spread the word about winter hummingbirds, and to all who support our research efforts. Getting to meet our hosts is one of the BEST parts of this research. They graciously open up their homes to us, tend to their winter visitors with care and diligence and when possible, share their winter hummingbird with others. COVID, and the desire for personal privacy has affected access to winter hummingbirds these last couple of seasons. At the end of the day, it is the host's choice to allow visitors or not and SEAR will always respect that choice without question. Onward to migration banding season….

For more information or any questions please visit our website at www.southeasternavianresearch.org or contact me at routledges@bellsouth.net

CHAPTER NEWS

The **BRISTOL BIRD CLUB** (BBC) led and participated in three separate Christmas Bird Counts in December and early January.

The Bristol Christmas Bird Count (TN/VA) was held on December 26, 2021, with 15 volunteers participating. Total number of species was 82 with a total bird count of 5,089. A first species for this count was an Eared Grebe.

The 63rd annual Glade Spring (VA) Christmas Bird Count was held on December 28, 2021, with 22 volunteers participating and 78 species identified. The total bird count was 6,612. This count set new high records for five species and a new species, Great Egret, was found. The weather was spring-like with lows in the mid-50's and a high of 69 degrees.

And last, but not least, the Shady Valley/Mountain City (TN) Christmas Count was held on January 1, 2022, with 11 participants and 63 species identified. The total bird count was 2,860. The weather was unbelievable for this time of year with low temperature of 56 and a high temperature of 73 degrees. Two new species for these areas were identified during this count.

Bristol Bird Club has recently found a new site for in-person monthly meetings which we hope will begin in March. The new location will be in Bristol, TN, at the Summit Building (CoWork Bristol). Several club members are to be thanked for working to find a fantastic location. We are excited about the new room and hope we can meet soon with our friends on a face-to-face basis.

The BBC is always about getting outdoors, and will be hosting bird walks at one of our local parks (Steele Creek Park). They will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Mill Creek Trailhead on Broad Street in Bristol. On February 10, ten birders braved a cool start to the day for the first of the walks. We were rewarded for our efforts. Great birds and great company! See the Bristol Bird Club Facebook group page for pictures. Some special birds we found were two Brown Creepers, Kingfishers running the creek, and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

Debi Campbell, Secretary

The **KNOXVILLE CHAPTER** has continued to hold its monthly meetings virtually via Zoom. The meetings have had some great presentations by Robyn Miller from American Eagle Foundation, naturalist Stephen Lynn Bales discussing winter waterfowl identification, and Chuck Cruickshank from the Tennessee Bluebird Society. The January meeting was filled with great photos of birds submitted by club members from various trips.

The club has continued to lead some great birding field trips to Kyker Bottoms Wildlife Refuge. Club members participated in Christmas Bird Counts throughout the area, including Norris, Seven Islands State Birding Park, Gatlinburg, Cades Cove, and West Knoxville. The monthly birding walks at Seven Islands State Birding Park have been postponed until the Spring season. The club is looking forward to a great Spring migration birding season in the area, and dates for field trips should be added to the club's calendar soon.

Stephanie Mueller, Secretary

The **LEBANON BIRDING CLUB - JOHN SELLARS CHAPTER** TOS continues to enjoy monthly outings. We have had a good year in 2021 despite some gathering challenges. Highlights include our Cerulean Warbler search at Edgar Evins State Park, the annual Native Plant & Butterfly Garden Tour / Nightjar & Owl Prowl in the summer at Cedars of Lebanon State Park and surrounding area, birding the local lakes and recreational areas, and AEDC Wildlife Management Area / Woods Reservoir.

We have a crew of many that always have pitched in and been helpers in unusual circumstances. Our bird club and friends are appreciative to each of you that have either participated or led a trip, helped on Bird Counts, or assumed duties that went above and beyond. Our hats are off to you and perhaps your reward can be a really neat bird sighting just for you this year! We really do appreciate everyone - past and present. Check us out at lebanonbirding.org/

Melissa Turrentine

CHAPTER NEWS

BIRDING KINGSPORT enjoyed a tour of Steele Creek Park Nature Center in December followed by a casual dinner at a local restaurant. We also completed our annual Christmas Bird Count in early January. In January and February, we hosted our monthly meetings on Zoom. Our January program featured East Tennessee Waterfowl, and our February program focused on Great Horned Owls. We headed back to the field in late February with a bird walk at one of our favorite spots, Warriors' Path State Park.

We are sad to report the passing of chapter member James Kelly on December 4, 2021. We will miss James' enthusiasm on bird walks, his friendly nature, and the wonderful photographs he posted on our Birding Kingsport Facebook page.

Birding Kingsport is looking forward to hosting the Fall 2022 TOS Meeting, September 30th - October 2nd in Kingsport.

Information on Birding Kingsport can be found at www.birdingkingsport.org.

Happy Birding!
Helen Sirett, President

The LEE AND LOIS HERNDON CHAPTER of Tennessee Ornithological Society (Elizabethton Bird Club) conducted its annual Christmas Bird Counts in December.

The 79th consecutive Elizabethton Christmas Bird Count was held Saturday, Dec. 18, with 27 observers in seven parties. Counters tallied 69 species of birds, which is below the recent 30-year average of 73 species. The all-time high was 85 species counted in 2017. The weather on count day, light rain for much of the day, contributed heavily to the lower total. Few ducks were present, probably due to a mild start to the winter season.

Notably absent were species such as Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Palm Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle and Brown-headed Cowbird. Several species were found in low numbers, also largely due to the rain.

The 69th Roan Mountain Christmas Bird Count was held Sunday, Dec. 19, with seven observers in three count parties participating in the event. The participants tallied 53 species, well above the recent 30-year average of 46 species. The all-time high on this count was 55 species found in 1987. The weather was slightly better than the day before on the Elizabethton CBC, but conditions remained overcast with occasional periods of mist, with colder and breezy periods.

Due to high case numbers of COVID-19 in the region, the club decided not to hold its usual Christmas party and CBC compilations.

The club's sales of 2022 bird calendars proved, yet again, a successful fundraiser. The club is also finalizing plans to produce a print publication on Carter County birding spots.

The chapter continues to hold hybrid monthly meetings. Some members elect to attend in person, but others have chosen to continue tuning into the meetings via Zoom.

The club is holding some field trips with members practicing suitable social distancing and other safety protocols during the pandemic.

Bryan Stevens, Editor

CHAPTER NEWS

The **MEMPHIS CHAPTER** of the TOS started meeting again in person last fall after a one-year hiatus due to covid. We met in September, October, and November outdoors at the Mid-South Raptor Center, our local bird rehab center. We have enjoyed some great presentations by some of our own members.

In October Hal Mitchell presented his work of recording night calls and night migration of birds through the Mississippi Flyway. He also shared his work with the Delta Wind Birds organization tracking the migration patterns and stopover land usage of shorebirds. If you would like to learn more, go here: https://www.deltawindbirds.org/

In November we heard from Fields Falcone about the conservation work being done in the Old Forest of Overton Park. Fields presented her work of documenting the Old Forest habitat's contribution to the bird diversity in our county. She also shared her findings on the impact of last winter's unusual icy freeze event on the local bird population. If you want to learn more about Overton Park, go here: https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-west-region/west-region/old-forest.html

In December we were treated to a virtual trip to Tanzania. Members Barbara Pyles and Van Harris regaled us with stories and pictures from this beautiful country. They were able to see over 300 species of birds as well as many other amazing animals.

Due to the holiday spike in covid cases, we erred on the side of caution and did not meet in January. We resumed in February with a program entitled "1000 Days of Birding, Why I Did It and What I Learned" by chapter president Cliff VanNostrand. Cliff talked about the mental health benefit he received from the discipline of birding every day. He also noted that he met many interesting people and became a part of an incredible community as a result of his birding. Cliff presented slides showcasing the species that he has seen in Shelby County.

The chapter has seen an increase of 24 members this past year. It is very encouraging to see that many of the chapters in the state are seeing this kind of growth and interest in birds and conservation. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Spring Meeting!

Cliff VanNostrand, MTOS President

My Church

On a cool spring morning

I left one church

Heading to another.

When up in the clear blue sky,

You sounded your rattles…

Your excited bugling calls.

I looked up and counted.

More came over the horizon…

And more…

And more.

So many small groups

Flying over in

Your gray cloaks

With a tad of red on your hats.

I had my church outside instead

That morning.

by Melissa Turrentine
John Sellars Chaper

CHAPTER NEWS

The **NASHVILLE CHAPTER** resumed holding in-person meetings about this time last year but, with the Omicron surge, suspended the January meeting and will continue to make the call month-by-month until COVID is under control again and we deem it safe. In the meantime, we are still holding monthly field trips thanks to Mike Smith's coordination and planning. They have a different look…often a long line of cars snaking through habitats or filling up small parking lots. But onward we trudge doing the best we can, given the circumstances. Thanks, Mike, for the great job in keeping this going!

We once again had outstanding participation in both our land and lake Christmas Bird Counts. Species numbers were a bit below normal for the land count due to the unusual warm wet weather and the lake count was moved up a day due to weather as well. Many thanks, as always, to Richard Conners for coordinating the lake count, and for all area leaders for coordinating their pieces of the pie. Especially to Scott Block for his online compilation. As head CBC coordinator for NTOS, Scott's computer talents made my data entry at National Audubon a breeze.

Our Chapter continues to grow in 2022, adding 1-3 new members each month. Many thanks to new member Emily Mills for sharing her talents and setting up a MailChimp account for us, which includes a new member welcome packet. We know this not only makes new members feel more welcome, but also helps to answer many of the commonly asked questions about our meetings, field trips and access to both the NTOS and TOS webpages. We've already seen evidence that it's working. A few of these new folks reached out with new ideas and let us know of their special talents and willingness to volunteer for our chapter.

Plans for our four ever-popular Wednesday morning Spring Migration walks at Radnor Lake State Park are coming together. If you're in the area the last 2 Wednesdays in April and the first 2 Wednesdays in May, we hope you'll consider joining us. We meet outside the Visitor's Center off Otter Creek Rd, at 7:30 am, rain or shine. Migration is always an exciting time of the year and, traditionally, Radnor Lake holds some pretty cool surprises.

And speaking of surprises, a pair of Bald Eagles are currently nesting at Radnor Lake!
In recent years, as nesting eagles in Tennessee have become more common place, this news might seem ordinary to some in-the-know, but it has caused quite the stir in Nashville. It's the closest nest ever documented to the Nashville city limits and the fourth nest ever documented in Davidson County. We will be watching and hoping for the pair's success.

Finally, we are very much looking forward to joining everyone at the Annual Spring TOS meeting in Memphis and hope to see you there as well.

Happy birding!
Cyndi Routledge, President

June 30th Deadline

The deadline date for the August issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is June 30th. Please submit all articles, announcements, reports and items of interest by this deadline date.

Submit Material To:

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